A New Species of *Conus* from Taiwan

BY

EDWARD JAMES PETUCH

Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201

AND

GEORGE MENDENHALL

416 Bayview Avenue, Millbrae, California 94030

(1 Plate)

A LARGE SPECIMEN of a new species of *Conus* was trawled from deep water off the Taiwan coast during December, 1970. It was quite distinct from any other species found in that area. Because of the possession of several unique morphological characteristics, the following taxon is being proposed.

GASTROPODA — PROSOBRANCHIA

NEOGASTROPODA

CONIDAE Linnaeus, 1758

Conus fletcheri Petuch & Mendenhall, spec. nov.

Description: Shell glossy, elongate and sharply tapered towards the anterior end; body whorl incised with 25 deep spiral sulci which become wider apart toward the shoulder and closer together at the anterior tip; between each 2 of the major sulci there are less depressed spiral grooves which become coarser and more numerous near the columella; shoulder smooth, rounded and faintly coronated; spire relatively sharp and elevated, comprising 11 whorls and encircled with 3 spiral threads; spire angle approximately 40°; first 6 spire whorls showing faint coronations; protoconch broken off on the holotype; aperture narrow and more or less equal in width throughout its length. Ground color white with 2 broken bands of brown flammules. The band near the shoulder covers half the body whorl while the other is only half as large. Scattered small brown flammules are also found on the spire.

Holotype: Length 105 mm; width 44.5 mm

Occurrence: The type was trawled from a depth of approximately 300 feet (90 m), southwest of the Penghu Island Group, Taiwan, Republic of China.

Type Depository: California Academy of Sciences, Geology catalog no. 48862.

Remarks: At first glance, this species appears to be related to the *Conus profundorum* Kuroda, 1957 complex mainly in shape. However, it can easily be separated out of this group by its lacking a well-stepped spire and by possession of heavy incised spiral grooves. The latter characteristic would suggest a relationship to the subgenus *Asprella* Schaufuss, 1869, but its general shape, large size and high polish point to a relationship with the subgenus *Chelyconus* Mörch, 1852.

The holotype was collected dead, and unfortunately none of the soft parts could be studied. The lip was also badly broken and the shell was stained in places from being buried in mud. Still, the remaining morphological characteristics are so distinct that this species cannot be readily confused with any other member of the genus.

This species is named in honor of Dr. Louis R. Fletcher, M. D., now Research Associate in the Geology Department, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.